

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 17009 01 OF 03 171105Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 IO-10 ISO-00 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 OMB-01

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 03 BONN 17009

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PAGE 02 BONN 17009 01 OF 03 171105Z

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: GW, SF, NATO, MPOL, PARM
SUBJECT: ALLEGATIONS OF FRG-SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY AND
TECHNICAL COOPERATION

REF: BONN 15743; BONN 16108; BONN 16286; USUN 4758;
PRETORIA 3775; PRETORIA 3818

SUMMARY: IN A LEFTIST TRACT, AND IN A NEWS CONFERENCE, THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONFERENCE HAS ACCUSED THE FRG OF EXTENSIVE TECHNICAL AND MILITARY COOPERATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA. ACCORDING TO THE ANC PUBLICATION, THE FRG IS HELPING SOUTH AFRICA DEVELOP A PLANT FOR ENRICHING URANIUM FOR WEAPONS, AND IS "ACTING AS THE AGENT FOR THE INTEGRATION OF SOUTH AFRICA INTO NATO." "DER SPIEGEL" ALSO REPORTS EXTENSIVE PROFESSIONAL CONTACTS BETWEEN FRG AND SOUTH AFRICAN SCIENTISTS AND MILITARY OFFICIALS BUT ATTRIBUTES THESE CONTACTS PRIMARILY TO THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN AMBASSADOR IN BONN AND THE WILLINGNESS OF WEST GERMAN SCIENTISTS AND MILITARY OFFICERS TO COOPERATE WITH THEIR SOUTH AFRICAN COLLEAGUES. THE BONN GOVERNMENT HAS CATEGORICALLY DENIED THE EXISTENCE OF MILITARY AND NUCLEAR COOPERATION BETWEEN THE FRG AND SOUTH AFRICA. HOWEVER, THE CHANCELLOR HAS ORDERED AN INVESTIGATION OF THE ALLEGATIONS MADE BY THE ANC, AND AN INTERMINISTERIAL COMMITTEE IS PREPARING A RESPONSE TO THE ACCUSATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBASSY HAS NOW SEEN COPY OF TRACT BY AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS WHICH ACCUSES THE FRG OF CLOSE MILITARY AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA (BONN 16108). THE DOCUMENT "THE NUCLEAR CONSPIRACY - FRG COLLABORATES TO STRENGTHEN APARTHEID" IS DATED LUSAKA SEPTEMBER 1975, AND WAS PUBLISHED IN BONN BY THE "PROGRESS DRITTE WELT (PDW)".

2. THE 25-PAGE REPORT, WHICH INCLUDES PHOTOGRAPHS OF CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICAN AND GERMAN OFFICIALS AND NUMEROUS FOOTNOTES, CHARGES THAT SOUTH AFRICA, WITH THE HELP OF THE SOCIETY FOR NUCLEAR RESEARCH (GFK) AND THE STEINKOHLLEN-ELEKTRIZITÄT, AG LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BONN 17009 01 OF 03 171105Z

(STEAG), IS BUILDING A URANIUM ENRICHMENT PLANT, WITH THE AGREEMENT AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF THE FRG. THE ANC CLAIMS THAT THE PLANT WILL USE THE JET NOZZLE SEPARATION PROCESS, DEVELOPED BY PROFESSOR ERWIN BECKER OF GFK, AND THAT INITIAL ORDERS FOR EQUIPMENT WERE PLACED WITH MAN OF NUERNBERG IN SEPTEMBER 1974. THE REPORT ARGUES THAT SINCE SUCH AN EXPENSIVE UNDERTAKING CANNOT BE JUSTIFIED ON ECONOMIC GROUNDS, THE

SOUTH AFRICANS ARE BUILDING THE PLANT TO PROVIDE
ENRICHED URANIUM FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

3. THE REPORT, WHICH IS LACED WITH EXPRESSIONS FRE-
QUENTLY FOUND IN EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA, RE-
VEALS A STRONG ANTI-FRG BIAS AND SINGLES OUT CSU
LEADER FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS FOR SPECIAL CRITICISM.
IN DISCUSSING FRG MOTIVES FOR COOPERATION WITH SOUTH
AFRICA, THE ANC FINDS THAT "SOUTH AFRICA AND THE FRG
MAKE NATURAL ALLIES." IN ADDITION TO STRONG COMMER-
CIAL TIES WITH SOUTH AFRICA, THE FRG, WHICH IS PRO-
HIBITED FROM PRODUCING NUCLEAR WEAPONS ON ITS OWN
TERRITORY, SEEKS TO CIRCUMVENT THIS HANDICAP THROUGH
CLANDESTINE COLLABORATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA. THE FRG
IS ALSO CHARGED WITH ACTING AS THE AGENT FOR THE
INTEGRATION OF SOUTH AFRICA INTO THE NATO ALLIANCE.

4. WITH THE CONCLUSION "WHAT IS TO BE DONE", THE

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PAGE 01 BONN 17009 02 OF 03 171112Z

14

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 IO-10 ISO-00 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 03 BONN 17009

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PAGE 02 BONN 17009 02 OF 03 171112Z

REPORT CALLS UPON "PEACE-LOVING FORCES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD" TO MAKE THEIR VOICES HEARD AT THE UN, IN GENEVA, ADDIS ABABA, AND BONN, BECAUSE THE FRG "MUST BE CALLED UPON TO ACCOUNT FOR ITS ACTIONS AND PLANS."

5. ON OCTOBER 8, ANC SPOKESMAN M.P. NEICKER, REPEATED THE CHARGE THAT THERE IS NUCLEAR COOPERATION BETWEEN THE FRG AND SOUTH AFRICA, SAYING THAT BONN WAS BEING UNTRUTHFUL WHEN IT DENIED SUCH COOPERATION AND PLAYED DOWN THE SOUTH AFRICA-FRG CONTACTS AS BEING BETWEEN PRIVATE CORPORATIONS. NEICKER CALLED ON THE FRG TO RECONSIDER ITS POLICY TOWARD SOUTH AFRICA SAYING THAT DESPITE SHORT-TERM SUCCESSES, THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT OVERLOOK LONGTERM CONSEQUENCES. HE IS QUOTED AS HAVING THREATENED THAT ONE DAY HIS ORGANIZATION WOULD BE IN POWER IN SOUTH AFRICA AND THEN IT WOULD DECIDE "WHO ARE OUR ENEMIES."

6. ALSO BUILDING ON THE DOCUMENTS STOLEN FROM THE SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY, "DER SPIEGEL" ON OCTOBER 6 IN AN ARTICLE "AVOID PUBLICITY" REPORTS THAT THERE IS EXTENSIVE TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA AND THE FRG. ALTHOUGH OFFICIAL POLITICAL RELATIONS BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA AND THE FRG ARE DISTANT, CONTACTS BETWEEN WEST GERMAN SCIENTISTS AND MILITARY OFFICIALS WITH THEIR COLLEAGUES IN SOUTH AFRICA ARE VERY CLOSE. ACCORDING TO "SPIEGEL", SINCE 1969 THE SOUTH AFRICAN AMBASSADOR, DONALD BELL SOLE, A

FORMER MEMBER OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN ATOMIC ENERGY BOARD AND A FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY IN VIENNA, HAS BUILT HIS MISSION INTO AN EFFECTIVE CONTACT POINT FOR THE MILITARY AND ATOMIC INTERESTS OF HIS COUNTRY, PLACING A LARGE NUMBER OF SOUTH AFRICAN ATOMIC SCIENTISTS AT THE SOCIETY FOR NUCLEAR RESEARCH IN KARLSRUHE (GFK). TOP SOUTH AFRICAN SCIENTISTS CONTINUE TO VISIT FREQUENTLY THE GFK AND THE STEINKOHLE-ELEKTRIZITAETS, A.G. (STEAG) IN ESSEN, WHICH JOINTLY DEVELOPED THE JET NOZZLE PROCESS FOR THE ENRICHMENT OF URANIUM. AS A RESULT OF THEIR ASSOCIATION WITH THE GERMANS THE SOUTH AFRICAN SCIENTISTS WERE ABLE TO INTRODUCE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BONN 17009 02 OF 03 171112Z

THEIR OWN ENRICHMENT PROCESS WHICH IS VERY SIMILAR TO THE GERMAN SYSTEM. BUT THE ARTICLE FINDS THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO SAY FOR CERTAIN THAT THE FRG HAS HELPED SOUTH AFRICA TO ACHIEVE ATOMIC INDEPENDENCE.

7. OBSERVING THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS CONSTANTLY DENIED THE EXISTENCE OF ATOMIC COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE FRG AND SOUTH AFRICA, "DER SPIEGEL" ASSERTS THAT GFK AND STEAG, "WHICH HAVE COOPERATED WITH SOUTH AFRICANS FOR YEARS", IS UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OWNS FORTY PERCENT OF RUHRKOHLE WHICH IN TURN OWNS FIFTY-ONE PERCENT OF STEAG. THE GFK IS OWNED ALMOST COMPLETELY BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

8. QUOTING FROM A LETTER WHICH AMBASSADOR SOLE WROTE TO STATE SECRETARY HAUNSCHILD OF RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY, IN WHICH HE SAID "THAT IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT IS IN ACCORD WITH THE ACTIONS OF THE PRIVATE SECTORS", "DER SPIEGEL" ASSERTS THAT AMONG THEMSELVES GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS VALUE ATOMIC COLLABORATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA, BECAUSE IT IS AN IMPORTANT SOURCE OF URANIUM AND BECAUSE OF ITS STRATEGIC LOCATION.

9. THE ARTICLE CLOSES WITH THE SUGGESTION THAT THE FONMIN WILL SEEK THE RECALL OF "THE TRICKY " AMB. SOLE.

10. OFFICIAL WEST GERMAN SPOKESMAN REACTED QUICKLY TO THE ANC'S CHARGE OF NUCLEAR AND MILITARY COOPERATION BETWEEN THE FRG AND SOUTH AFRICA. GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN BOELLING DENIED THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE FRG WOULD HELP SOUTH AFRICA SET UP A URANIUM ENRICHMENT PLANT IN SOUTH AFRICA WHICH COULD ULTIMATELY PRODUCE FISSIONABLE MATERIAL FOR ATOMIC WEAPONS. REFERRING TO PRESS REPORTS ON ACTIVITIES OF SOUTH AFRICAN SCIENTISTS IN GERMAN NUCLEAR RESEARCH INSTITUTES, BOELLING SAID THAT SOME OF

THEM HAD "SIMPLY VISITED THESE INSTITUTIONS." THE
DEFENSE MINISTRY SPOKESMAN ALSO DENIED MILITARY
COOPERATION BETWEEN THE FRG AND SOUTH AFRICA. MINISTER
OF RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY, MATTHOEFER, WHO
CHARACTERIZED THE ANC REPORT AS "COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA
TO DISCREDIT THE FRG," SAID THAT THE FRG DOES NOT PLAN
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PAGE 04 BONN 17009 02 OF 03 171112Z

TO SELL THE FRG EQUIPMENT TO ENRICH

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PAGE 01 BONN 17009 03 OF 03 171114Z

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 03 OF 03 BONN 17009

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PAGE 02 BONN 17009 03 OF 03 171114Z

URANIUM.

11. THE DEVELOPER OF THE JET NOZZLE SEPARATION PROCESS, PROFESSOR ERWIN BECKER OF THE SOCIETY FOR NUCLEAR RESEARCH (GFK) ALSO REBUTTED THE ANC CHARGES. BECKER TOLD THE "FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU" THAT THE JET NOZZLE PROCESS HAD BEEN DEVELOPED OPENLY BECAUSE THE FRG WANTED TO AVOID SUSPICION THAT IT WAS PLANNING TO DEVELOP ARMS SECRETLY. HE SAID THE ABILITY OF SOUTH AFRICA TO DEVELOP THE PROCESS SHOWS HOW MANY SCIENTISTS UNDERSTAND THE PROCESS. BECKER DENIED ANY "SPECIAL COOPERATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA" AND SAID THAT NONE OF HIS CO-WORKERS HAD VISITED SOUTH AFRICA, ALTHOUGH HE HAD VISITED SOUTH AFRICA FOR A WEEK IN 1974.

12. THE CHARGES OF COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE FRG AND SOUTH AFRICA IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS HAVE ALSO HIGHLIGHTED THE ISSUE OF WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD ALLOW THE SALE OF A NUCLEAR POWER PLANT TO SOUTH AFRICA. GENERAL SENTIMENT IS THAT FOR ECONOMIC REASONS THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD APPROVE THE SALE WITH MINISTERS MATTHOEFER AND BAHR, BOTH ADVOCATING THE SALE. THE ECONOMICS MINISTRY AND THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAVE DENIED PRESS SPECULATIONS THAT ECONOMICS MINISTER FRIDERICH ADVOCATES THE SALE WHILE FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER OPPOSES IT OUT OF CONCERN FOR THE FEELINGS OF BLACK AFRICA.

13. TAKING THE ISSUE FURTHER, CDU/CSU DEFENSE SPOKESMAN MANFRED WOERNER SAID EXTENSIVE "RELATIONS BETWEEN THE WEST AND SOUTH AFRICA ARE NECESSARY FOR ECONOMIC AND STRATEGIC REASONS."

14. THE GOVERNMENT IS TAKING THE ANC PUBLICATION SERIOUSLY AND AN INTERMINISTERIAL COMMITTEE IS TRYING TO SORT OUT THE ALLEGATIONS AND PREPARE A RESPONSE TO THE CHARGES. FRG OFFICIALS HAVE PROMISED EMBASSY A DETAILED REBUTTAL OF ACCUSATIONS IN PAMPHLET NEXT WEEK.

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PAGE 03 BONN 17009 03 OF 03 171114Z

15. COMMENT: THE ANC PUBLICATION AND THE "SPIEGEL" ARTICLE, LIKE THE REPORT IN "DER STERN" WHICH LED TO THE DISMISSAL OF GENERAL RALL, OWE MUCH OF THEIR EFFECTIVENESS TO THE USE OF DOCUMENTS STOLEN FROM THE SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY. CLAIMING THAT "THE TROUBLE WITH SOUTH AFRICANS IS THAT WE TRUST TOO MANY PEOPLE", THE MINISTER OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY IN BONN SUGGESTED THAT THE DOCUMENTS WERE STOLEN BY AN EMPLOYEE OF THE EMBASSY, BUT WERE GIVEN TO "DER STERN" BY THE EAST GERMANS. THE EDITOR OF "PROGRESS DRITTE WELT" ALSO SAID THAT THE THEFT WAS AN INSIDE JOB BUT NOT THE WORK OF THE GDR. IN ANY CASE, THE HIGHLY POLEMICAL ATTACK AGAINST FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS, THE FRG, AND OTHER MEMBERS OF NATO AS WELL AS THE USE OF LENINIST PHRASES ("WHAT IS TO BE DONE") STRONGLY SUGGEST THAT "THE NUCLEAR CONSPIRACY" IS NOT OF PURELY AFRICAN ORIGIN.

16. SOME GERMAN OFFICIALS ARE SKEPTICAL OF THE AFRICAN MOTIVATION IN ATTACKING THE FRG ON THIS ISSUE.- FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICE DIRECTOR HAS TOLD US THAT HE BELIEVES THE AFRICANS HAVE SINGLED OUT GERMANY BECAUSE THE GERMAN NAZI PAST MAKES THE FRG PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE TO CHARGES OF RACIST COLLABORATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA. HESAID THAT OTHER COUNTRIES APPEAR TO HAVE MOVED AS FAR OR EVEN FURTHER THAN THE FRG IN ASSISTING SOUTH AFRICAN ATOMIC DEVELOPMENT, BUT THEY ARE NOT BEING ATTACKED AS SEVERELY.
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